Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-26. (Canceled).

27.   (Currently Amended) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates, where the thicknesses of the plates are in [[a]] the ratio of 1:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

28.   (Currently Amended) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates, where the thicknesses of the plates are in [[a]] the ratio of 4:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

29.   (Currently Amended) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates, where [[the]] a polarization angle between two of the plates is substantially $n\frac{\pi}{2} \pm \arccos(-1/3)/4$, where n is an integer.

30.   (Currently Amended) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates, where [[the]] a first angle between polarization axes of a first adjacent pair [[two]] of the plates is substantially $\left(n+\frac{1}{2}\right)\frac{\pi}{2}$, and a second angle between polarization axes of a second adjacent pair of the plates is substantially $n\frac{\pi}{2} \pm \arccos(-1/3)/4$, where n is an integer.

Claims 31-32. (Canceled).

33.   (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 27 where the order of the three plates is selected such that at least one retardance frequency vanishes in a first quadrant.

34.   (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 28 where the order of the three plates is selected such that at least one retardance frequency vanishes in a first quadrant.

35.   (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 27 where the thicknesses of the three plates are selected such that the plate of intermediate thickness is positioned between the remaining two plates.

36.   (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 28 where the thicknesses of the three plates are selected such that the plate of least thickness is positioned between the remaining two plates.

37.   (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 27 where each of the birefringent plates has an ordinary axis, each birefringent plate having a substantially different rotation angle of the respective ordinary axis.

38.   (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 28 where each of the birefringent plates has an ordinary axis, each birefringent plate having a substantially different rotation angle of the respective ordinary axis.

39.   (Currently Amended) A depolarizer as in claim 29 where the thicknesses of the plates are in [[a]] the ratio of 1:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

40.   (Currently Amended) A depolarizer as in claim 30 where the thicknesses of the plates are in [[a]] the ratio of 1:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

41.   (Currently Amended) A depolarizer as in claim 29 where the thicknesses of the plates are in [[a]] the ratio of 4:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

42.   (Currently Amended) A depolarizer as in claim 30 where the thicknesses of the plates are in [[a]] the ratio of 4:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

43.   (New) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates, where the respective thicknesses of the plates are 1.5mm, 1.125mm, and 3.375mm.

44.   (New) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates, where the total thicknesses of the plates is approximately 6mm.

45.   (New) A depolarizer as in claim 44 where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 1:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

46.   (New) A depolarizer as in claim 44 where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 4:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

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